

(To Members of the Legislature)
or
(Dear Governor Barbour)

As former Governors, we are writing in support of Governor Barbour's veto of House Bill 803, the eminent domain bill. In our experiences, the State Constitution already provides exceptionally strong protections for property owners in Mississippi and economic development practices under the Major Economic Impact Act add more protective layers. While perhaps well intended, HB 803 carries more risk for damaging job creation than for protecting private property.

It would be a terrible result, especially in the current international economic crisis, if Mississippi were shut out of major job creating projects because of HB 803; we fear this will happen.

We won't presume to try to tell Senators how to vote when the override issue comes up tomorrow. But we did want Senators to know we share the concerns of Governor Barbour and professional economic developers across the state that if this bill becomes law, Mississippi will be out of the running for major job creation projects, and our citizens will suffer.

Sincerely,

William F. Winter

William L. Waller